

Cool Season Pastures



Tennessee Department of Agriculture, Division of Forestry

Many wildlife species benefit from good grass/legume plantings in cool season pastures because they provide high quality foraging areas as well as important bugging areas for quail, grouse and turkey chicks. If not cut too frequently these mixtures also provide high quality cover for a variety of small game animals.

Perennial cool season grass/legume mixtures recommended include:

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| Mix # 1 | orchard grass | 10 lb./acre |
| | white clover | 3 lb./acre |
| | red clover | 4 lb./acre |
| | Korean lespedeza | 5 lb./acre |
| Mix # 2 | timothy | 8 lb./acre |
| | white clover | 3 lb./acre |
| | red clover | 4 lb./acre |
| | Korean lespedeza | 5 lb./acre |
| Mix # 3 | orchard grass | 6 lb./acre |
| | timothy | 2 lb./acre |
| | white clover | 3 lb./acre |
| | red clover | 4 lb./acre |
| Mix # 4 | redtop | 2 lb./acre |
| | timothy | 2 lb./acre |
| | Korean lespedeza | 5 lb./acre |
| Mix # 5 | alfalfa | 15 lb./acre |
| | orchard grass | 8 lb./acre |

These mixtures are best planted in the spring (February 15- May 15). In each case we recommend adding a nurse crop for quick temporary cover and wildlife forage. Nurse crops such as spring oats or wheat (30 lb./acre), or annual ryegrass (5 lb./acre) would be appropriate.

For best performance fertilize and lime according to soil tests. Your county extension agent can instruct you how to take soil samples and submit them for testing. Or in lieu of a soil test, use 200 lb/ac of 12-24-24 with 2 tons lime. These perennial grass/legume mixtures will last for several years if maintained with periodic mowing. As the legume components die out, renovating the fields may be necessary to maintain high value to wildlife.

(Adapted from the Kentucky Division of Forestry) 10/99 TDA version 7-01